An Account of two Books:

I. *A Diſcourſe of the State of Health in the Iſland of* Jamaica, *with a Proviſion calculated for the ſame, from the Air, the Place, and the Water; the Cuſtoms and manner of Living, &c. By* Thomas Trapham *M. D. Coll. Med.* Lond. *Soc. Hon.*

THis Book is divided by the Ingenious Author into ten Chapters, with a Concluſion.

Chap. 1. Treateth of the Air of *Jamaica.* As, amongſt other particulars, of the Winds there, and ſeveral kinds of Breezes; with the Diſtempers they introduce. Shewing alſo, that 'tis thick and moiſt, though very hot. That it aboundeth with a Volatile Nitrous Salt; from the ſpeedy ruſting of Iron, and the great fructifying quality of the Rains and Dews there. With a Digreſſion of the Nature or Production of Nitre, &c.

Chap. 2. Of the Place. As, with other matters of note, Whence not ſubject to Hurricanes. Deſcription of *Port Royal*: with the advantages and inconveniences therein with reſpect to health. Account of the Sugar-works: and of the Diſtempers which proceed from much drinking of *Rum*, and other hot Liquors. Two great Rarities: the one a ſort of Trees, not rotten, but living and growing, the Bark of which ſhines in the dark moſt vividly, eſpecially in rainy weather. The other a ſort of Seeds, endued with an inward throbbing Puls or Spring of Motion: by means whereof they will alſo leap ſometimes above a ſpan high upon a Table; and being placed at a diſtance, continue that leaping motion one towards another: which power of ſelf-motion they alſo retain, in ſome degree, for many days. Deſcriptions of ſeveral Parts of the Iſland. Of the *Cacaa*, and other Plants here produced. A Natural Hiſtory of the Country promiſed.

Chap. 3. Of the Water. As of the River *de Covre.* How cured by the Spaniards, *&c.* A better water near the Port. Danger of Well-water, eſpecially at *Ligany.* Rivers and Springs abound. A Vegetable which being cut, affords a co-

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pious and healthful Liquor. Uſes of the *Coco* Nut-tree.

Chap. 4. Of the Cuſtoms and Manners of Living. Where a ſutable and regular Diet is recommended. Beſt Wine for the Jamaicans brought from *Madera*. How the Jamaican to order himſelf in the night. Whence it is, that in *Jamaica* four Males dye for one Female. Of *Chocolate* (the Manna of the *Weſt-Indies*) its preparation and uſe. Of Fruits, Fleſh, and Fiſh, which the beſt. Particularly, the Sea-Tortoyſe excellent food. With ſeveral obſervations of this Animal. Of the *Manaty* or Sea-Cow. The Jew-fiſh, *&c.* Here no venemous Creatures, *&c.*

Chap. 5. Of the Intemperatures and Diſeaſes of the Place in general, and Fluxes in particular. The Diſeaſes here, few, and ſimple. Small Pox, Plague, Conſumptions, Stone, but rare: As alſo the Diſeaſes incident to Women in Northern Countries: Childbirth eaſie to admiration. Symptomes and cure of the Simple Flux, Bloody Flux, and White Flux.

Chap. 6. Of the Fevers in *Jamaica*. As their Nature, Remedies. Uſually Intermittent. The uſe of *China* herein.

Chap. 7. Of the Dropſy, called the Countrey Diſeaſe. A ſpecifick Remedy hereof growing in *Jamaica*, called the *Dumb Cane*, becauſe, whoſoever toucheth it with his Tongue, becometh dumb for ſome hours. Applied by the Author only outwardly. How to be prepared and uſed: and its odd effects. Occaſionally of the Herb *Verbene* very ſucceſsfully applied in the Pleuriſie. The uſe of a Decoction of *Savanna Weed*, a ſort of *Spikenard*.

Chap. 8. Of Worms. Whence ſo frequent in *Jamaica*; eſpecially in Children, Women, and Infirm. Amongſt others, *Jamaica Aloes* one ſpecifick for them, *&c.*

Chap. 9. Of the *Lues Venerea*. Some conjectures of its Original. Deſcription of the *Yaws*, cured in *Jamaica* with eaſe and certainty by a methodical uſe of Vomits, Purging, and Bleeding: together with a Remedy for external ſores, of eaſe preparation; which is alſo deſcribed. A Conjecture, That many of the Symptomes in the Yaws and Pox, may proceed from little Animals, bred in and about the Spermatick Parts. The uſe of a Balſamick Juyce in the Pox, diſcovered by wild Boars.

Chap. 10. Of the Dry-belly-ach. How occaſioned. Its terrible Symptomes. Often proves Chronical. Bathing a ſure Remedy. A Specifick to be uſed with the forementioned Balſome.

The Concluſion. Wherein Baths are recommended for preventing moſt of the forementioned Diſeaſes. The Author's Opinion of the Production of *Ambergrieſe*.

II. *Catalogus Stellarum Auſtralium: ſive Supplementum Catalogi Tychonici, exhibens Longitudines & Latitudines Stellarum fixarum, quæ prope Polum Antarcticum ſitæ, in Horizonte Uraniburgico Tychoni inconſpicuæ fuere, accurato Calculo, ex Diſtantiis ſupputatas, & ad Annum* 1677. *completum correctas. Cum ipſis Obſervationibus in Inſula S. Helenæ (cujus Latitudo* 15 *gr.* 55 *m. Auſtr. & Longit.* 7 *gr.* 00 *m. ad Occaſum à Londino) ſummâ Curâ & Sextante ſatis magno de Cœlo depromptis. Opus ab Aſtronomicis hactenus deſideratum. Accedit Appendicula de Rebus quibuſdam Aſtronomicis, notatu non indignis. Authore* Edmundo Halleio, *è Coll. Reg.* Oxon.

THE diligent and moſt accurate Author introduceth theſe his Obſervations with a Preface; therein noting, That from his ſaid Obſervations it is moſt clear, that all the Aſtronomical Tables hitherto extant, are defective in Calculating the Motions of Celeſtial Bodies: that *Saturn* moveth much more ſlowly, and *Jupiter* more ſwiftly, than by thoſe Tables is reckoned upon. That hereupon, he began to go about to correct them; but preſently foreſaw, that could never be well done, without a more correct Catalogue of the fixed Stars: the performance whereof, is already undertaken by other excellent hands. That he therefore choſe rather to take upon himſelf the ſtateing of the places of the fixed Stars near the Southern Pole, and out of our Horizon: which no one, that he knoweth, hath, with proper Inſtruments, before undertaken. What *Frederick Houtman*'s Inſtruments were, by whoſe Obſervations in *Sumatra*, *Blaeu* pretended to correct his Celeſtial Globe, our Author knows not; but ſaith, That by comparing that Globe with this his preſent Catalogue,

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it appeareth he underſtood little of Aſtronomy. Which conſidering, and being alſo approved and encouraged by divers perſons of much Worth and Honour, as my Lord *Brouncker*, Sir *Joſeph Williamſon*, Sir *Jonas Moore*, and others, & even by the King alſo, he thereupon furniſhed himſelf with ſuch Inſtruments as were neceſſary for his purpoſe: which he particularly mentions and deſcribes. Of theſe, he ſaith, he made the utmoſt and moſt aſſiduous uſe that could be, in a place of ſo thick and cloudy a Sky, as that of St. *Helena*, contrary to common report, prov'd to be; having reſtored about 350 fixed Stars, which were omitted in *Catalogo Tychonico*. The places whereof he preſumeth he hath truly aſſigned, taking in, or not without reſpect to, the places of ſome of the Stars in the forementioned Catalogue; in which the Obliquity of the Ecliptick is ſuppoſed to be 23 gr. 31 m. 30 ſ. which (ſaith our Author) is moſt certainly too much. Yet becauſe he deſigned not a correction of the whole Sphear; and becauſe it appears not, as yet, within half a minute, how great that Obliquity is; and that this his own Catalogue may be eaſily reduced to any Obliquity, he thought not fit to meddle with that.

After the Preface, follow the Obſervations themſelves: wherein to his own, the Author hath added an ancient Catalogue out of *Clavius*'s Commentaries *In Sphæram Jo. de Sacrobоſco*; and that of *Bartſchius è Tabulis Rudolphinis Kepleri*: that being compared with theſe his Obſervations, it might evidently appear how very much the Ancient Globes do almoſt every where differ from the Heavens. From theſe Obſervations, as he proceeds, he alſo propoſeth ſome conjectures of the corruptibility, or at leaſt the mutability of the fixed Stars.

Next there is a Table of the Right Aſcenſions of the Southern fixed Stars, and their Diſtances from the Pole: For the uſe of Navigators.

Hereto is ſubjoyned an Obſervation of *Mercury* by our Author, *ſcil.*

Mercurii Tranſitus ſub Solis Diſco. Oct. 28. *Anno* 1677. *Cum Tentamine pro Solis Parallaxi.*

Of his conjectures here made about the Suns Parallaxis, in his

his aforeſaid Preface, he ſaith, That were the place of *Mercury's* Node once found, from this his Obſervation of *Mercury*, the Suns Parallaxis might be deduced.

Hereto are added, by our Author,
Modi quidam penè Geometrici pro Parallaxi Lunæ inveſtiganda.

Of which, there are three propoſed, Yet the beſt way of finding the ſame (as the Author noteth in his Preface) would be, by comparing the Meridian Altitudes of the Moon, obſerved both in St. *Helena* and in *Europe* at the ſame time.

The concluding Chapter is entitled,
Quædam Lunaris Theoriæ Emendationem ſpectantia.

Wherein it is (as is noted in the ſaid Preface) that Aſtronomy is at preſent moſt of all defective. And that the diſcovery hereof would lead us to the moſt exact way of finding ou the Longitude of places.

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